



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 January 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- According to Coast Guard News, the Coast Guard command center in Juneau, Alaska, received an anonymous phone call Wednesday morning in which the caller threatened to detonate fuel tanks at the Petro Marine fuel facility in Ketchikan. (See item [1](#))
- KING 5 Seattle reports that an alarming letter was sent to nearly a dozen Seattle bars threatening to kill people with ricin. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 7, Coast Guard News* – (Alaska) **Coast Guard responds to threat against Ketchikan fuel facility.** The Seventeenth Coast Guard District Command Center located in Juneau, Alaska, received an anonymous phone call Wednesday morning in which the caller threatened to detonate fuel tanks at the Petro Marine fuel facility in Ketchikan. In response, Coast Guard Sector Juneau has raised the Maritime Security (MARSEC) Level in the Port of Ketchikan from Level 1 to Level 2. The MARSEC level in all other Southeast Alaskan ports remains at Level 1. MARSEC Level 2 is set in response to a specific threat and mandates a heightened security posture for the Coast Guard and marine industry personnel. Additionally, Coast Guard Sector Juneau has established a safety zone to redirect vessel traffic away from the potential blast zone. Mariners must stay at least 500 yards from the Petro Marine facility. Coast Guard

Station Ketchikan is enforcing the safety zone. Coast Guard Sector Juneau is working closely with Ketchikan Port Authority partners including the Alaska State Troopers, the Ketchikan Police Department, and the Transportation Security Agency to mount a coordinated joint response to the threat.

Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-responds-to-threat-against-ketchikan-fuel-facility/2009/01/07/>

2. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Fumes, truck set off gas well explosion.** Officials say a passing truck set off fumes from a natural gas well and sparked a fire in southeastern Kentucky. The Leslie County director of emergency management says the fire started at about 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Big Branch area of the county. He says firefighters doused the blaze by about 10 p.m. He says one child who was in the truck and several workers near the well suffered minor injuries, but all were treated and released Tuesday night. The initial explosion left trees and brush in the area singed and smoking. A spark from the truck ignited vapors being released from the well. Because of the cloud cover, the vapors could not evaporate, creating conditions for the blaze.
Source: http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.ky/3863215e-www.fox17.com.shtml

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *January 5, Government Security News* – (Northeast) **Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace warn about Obama's inaugural train ride.** Two leading environmental groups, the Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, have written a letter to the Secret Service warning about the potential danger of a catastrophic terrorist attack on a hazardous chemical facility along the East Coast rail corridor while the U.S. President elect and his choice for vice president make a highly-publicized, pre-inaugural whistle-stop train trip to Washington, D.C., on January 17. The two environmental groups recommend that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation should remove temporarily from the Philadelphia-D.C. rail corridor the most hazardous industrial chemical cargoes, such as chlorine gas and ammonia, and should push commercial facilities to shut down their most dangerous high-pressure chemical operations and significantly reduce their on-site chemical storage. Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace are particularly worried about the possibility of a terrorist attack causing a poison gas cloud that could cover a wide area. "Evidence suggests that by far the easiest way for terrorists to kill large numbers of Americans in the next attack and to strike an economic blow to the nation would be by releasing the contents of even one poison gas tank car (for example, chlorine) that can produce a toxic cloud at a lethal level over any city fully 15 miles downwind by 4 miles wide," the letter explained. "Some of the more dangerous chemical facilities in the country are also in that corridor," a Friends of the Earth consultant told ABC News on Monday. The consultant and his colleagues have been pushing hard since the September 11th attacks to reroute hazardous cargo away from city centers.
Source: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1309.html>
See also: <http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2009/01/groups-stress-s.html>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **NRC proposes \$65K over napping nuke plant guards.** Federal regulators are proposing a \$65,000 fine against the operator of a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant where security guards routinely napped on the job. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the fine against Exelon Nuclear on Tuesday after completing an investigation of the Peach Bottom plant in south-central Pennsylvania. An Exelon Nuclear spokeswoman says the company will pay the fine. Exelon ended its contract with an outside security company for Peach Bottom in 2007 after a videotape surfaced of guards sleeping in a “ready room” at the power plant. The spokeswoman says Exelon’s monitoring of security at the nuclear power plant has improved since the company established its own, in-house security force.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i9bLYHTyAXsrl1zeu-jPV8UMhwAD95HS5U00>

See also: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-001.i.html>

5. *January 6, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Alabama; Tennessee) **NRC issues confirmatory order to Sequoyah nuclear plant following alternative dispute resolution.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a confirmatory order to the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) Sequoyah nuclear power plant in Tennessee as part of a settlement agreement involving a contract security sergeant who falsified a form at the plant. The NRC Office of Investigations concluded that the sergeant deliberately falsified an equipment inventory form, and caused TVA to be in apparent violation of NRC regulations. As part of the settlement agreement, TVA has agreed to a number of corrective actions and enhancements related to security equipment inventory and promotion of internal programs for resolution of issues or deficiencies not only at Sequoyah but also at TVA’s Browns Ferry and Watts Bar nuclear plants in Alabama and Tennessee, respectively. TVA also committed to assess the effectiveness of corrective actions and enhancements in a recent security independent evaluation, and will factor those results into its corrective action program. In addition, TVA has notified the NRC that it intends to terminate its security contract and will begin moving to a TVA security force in early 2009 at all of its nuclear facilities. The NRC did not require that change as part of the agreement and confirmatory order.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-001.ii.html>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *January 7, Florida Today* – (Florida) **Explosion that hurt 7 spurs NASA probe.** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) investigators are studying a tank explosion that caused minor injuries at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) during a contractor’s independent equipment test just before Christmas. “They’re looking at what

happened and how to prevent it from happening again,” a KSC spokesman said. Seven people were treated and released from KSC’s medical clinic after the incident, which occurred around 9 a.m. December 23 outside a cryogenic testing lab on space center property. He said Lockheed Martin Corp. and ASRC Aerospace Corp. conducted the pressurization test on a composite tank and that the work was not related to NASA programs. A spokesman for Lockheed Martin at NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans said the test involved an unlined, liquid oxygen compatible tank measuring 54 inches in diameter that is being designed to support future launch vehicles. He said the contractors and NASA agreed on the testing procedures in advance, and that it would be up to investigators to determine if the procedures were adequate. In addition to the minor injuries, the blast’s force and impact from splintered plywood caused thousands of dollars of damage to the lab facility, he said. The damaged area is taped off but the building remains open. A NASA “mishap investigation team” is expected to produce a report by late February.

Source:

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20090107/NEWS02/901070320/1006/news01>

7. *January 6, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. still probing security satellite failure.** Four months after the newest U.S. missile-warning satellite built by Northrop Grumman Corp. failed in orbit, officials are still investigating what happened. The classified Defense Support Program satellite known as DSP 23 was launched into geosynchronous orbit in November 2007 but stopped responding to commands in mid-September last year. Defense officials say possible causes for the failure range from defective parts or software problems, a natural phenomenon like a solar flare, or possibly, although unlikely, debris in space. An intentional attack was also possible, but very unlikely, they said. As a result of those software concerns, Lockheed Martin Corp. was forced to rewrite code for its Space Based Infrared Satellites that will succeed the DSP program. It was not clear if similar software issues could be behind the latest satellite failure, but officials said that possibility was being closely investigated. The U.S. government has launched 23 of Northrop’s DSP missile-warning satellites since 1970. The September failure of the newest DSP satellite raises the possibility that the United States may have gaps in its ability to detect enemy missiles in the future, unless new satellites are launched soon, said an analyst. The Pentagon has already asked Congress for \$117 million this fiscal year for a new satellite to hedge against a potential gap in satellite coverage around 2014.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0538598520090106>

8. *January 6, Space.com* – (National) **SpaceX assembles new rocket for launch debut.** Space Exploration Technologies met its goal of having its first Falcon 9 rocket in place and fully integrated at Florida’s Cape Canaveral Air Force Station by the end of 2008. The Hawthorne, California-based company mated the rocket’s 17-foot payload fairing to the Falcon 9 first stage by December 30, completing integration a day earlier than planned. “With Falcon 9 integrated, our focus shifts to the big launch mount and erector,” the SpaceX chief executive wrote in his final update of 2008. Once the launch mount and erector are complete, Falcon 9 will be transferred to the erector and raised vertical early this year. SpaceX has five Falcon 9 launches on its manifest for 2009,

including a maiden flight sponsored by a U.S. government customer that the company will not name and two demonstration flights under NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services program. The demo flights are intended to prove that SpaceX is ready to begin making regular cargo runs to the International Space Station under a \$1.6 billion contract NASA awarded the company on December 23.

Source: <http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/090106-spacex-falcon9-assembled.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 7, MarketWatch* – (National) **PennyMac funds buys mortgage portfolio from FDIC.** Private National Mortgage Acceptance Co. (PennyMac), a company formed to buy troubled mortgages, said Wednesday that funds managed by its affiliates bought \$558 million of home loans from the FDIC. The loans were formerly assets of First National Bank of Nevada, which the FDIC closed earlier this year when it became the firm's receiver. PennyMac said it bought the loans on behalf of private investors and plans to work out the loans with borrowers. "PennyMac's objective is to maximize value by working with borrowers to maintain ownership of their homes and reduce foreclosures," the firm said in a press release.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/PennyMac-funds-buys-mortgage-portfolio/story.aspx?guid={31EFCB88-8D03-4A4B-A4DB-3E1485824BBF}>

10. *January 6, Reuters* – (National) **Fed and other agencies to join U.S. fraud task force.** The U.S. government is beefing up a task force to fight mortgage crimes and safeguard federal financial bailouts, the U.S. Justice Department said on January 6. The Federal Reserve, the internal watchdog of the new federal financial rescue program, and four other agencies will join the presidential Corporate Fraud Task Force, which was established in 2002. The move comes amid calls by some lawmakers and other critics for a more aggressive federal crackdown on allegations of financial wrongdoing that have sent Wall Street reeling. Critics have called for a special task force to handle many cases now being handled by regional offices. They have also urged stricter supervision of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) which is in charge of handing out \$700 billion to shore up financial and other institutions. "The new member agencies represent a continuing focus by the task force to crack down on mortgage fraud, particularly with regard to ongoing investigations into securitization fraud," the Justice Department said. In addition to the Fed, other new agencies on the task force include the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the TARP's special inspector general. They will join senior officials from the FBI, U.S. Attorneys offices, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and several other agencies.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/gc06/idUKTRE5057D220090106>

11. *January 6, NonProfit Times* – (National) **States push to encrypt donor/client info.** The CEO and founder of the Foundation for Positively Kids (FPK) in Las Vegas deals with confidential information in his program, including donor credit card information. A good portion of that information arrives via email. That system now must be overhauled

to accommodate a new Nevada law that requires personal information transmissions to be encrypted. The Nevada law states that personal information cannot be transferred through electronic transmission outside a secure system unless it is encrypted. The founder of FPK, who is also the Nevada Association of Nonprofit Organization's (NANO) board chair, said even though the law went into effect October 1, nonprofits leaders have not been talking about it and the topic did not even make NANO's last newsletter. With the Nevada law in force and with Massachusetts ready to go, other states are expected to soon follow. A bill in the Michigan state senate introduced this past January would require personal information to be encrypted and, in the event of a security breach, credit card companies affected would be able to bring a civil suit against an organization, including any refunds or cost for replacement cards. A state senate bill in Washington State would require organizations using personal information to comply fully with Payment Card Industry regulations. "Nonprofits should be getting ready now," said the IT director at Earthjustice in Oakland, California. "If your donor management system is a Word document or an Excel spreadsheet – you have a longer way to go."

Source: <http://www.nptimes.com/instantfund/09Jan/IF-090106-1.html>

12. *January 6, Washington Post* – (National) **Data breaches up almost 50 percent, affecting records of 35.7 million people.** Businesses, governments, and educational institutions reported nearly 50 percent more data breaches last year than in 2007, exposing the personal records of at least 35.7 million Americans, according to a nonprofit group that works to prevent identity fraud. Identity Theft Resource Center of San Diego is set to announce January 6 that some 656 breaches were reported in 2008, up from 446 in the previous year. Nearly 37 percent of the breaches occurred at businesses, while schools accounted for roughly 20 percent of the reported incidents. The center also found that the percentage of breaches attributed to data theft from current and former employees more than doubled from 7 percent in 2007 to nearly 16 percent in 2008. "This may be reflective of the economy, or the fact that there are more organized crime rings going after company information using insiders," said the center's co-founder. "As companies become more stringent with protecting against hackers, insider theft is becoming more prevalent."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/05/AR2009010503046.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Crosswinds may have been factor in jet crash.** Strong crosswinds probably were a factor in an accident last month that sent a Continental Airlines jet off a Denver runway, aviation safety experts said yesterday. Several experts raised the possibility that the Boeing 737-500 airliner, carrying 110 passengers, may have experienced "weather vaning," where a strong crosswind pushes a plane's tail and turns the aircraft's nose into the wind, much as it turns a weather vane. While gusts of up to 37 mph were reported at Denver International Airport on the day of the accident, the experts said, winds were probably not strong enough to explain the

accident entirely, and some additional factor — either mechanical failure or human error — also could have played a role. National Transportation Safety Board officials have said the plane’s brakes and engines appeared to have been operating normally. Spokesmen for Boeing and Continental declined to reveal their guidelines on safely operating the 737-500 in crosswinds. However, the winds at the time of the accident should have been “within the envelope” of what the plane could withstand.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/06/AR2009010603117.html?hpid=sec-nation>

14. *January 7, WJHG 7 Panama City Beach* – (Florida) **Suspicious silver briefcase closes Panama City Airport.** Transportation Security Administration officials shut-down the Panama City-Bay County International Airport for two hours Tuesday evening because of a suspicious package. The package, a silver briefcase, turned up in the baggage claim area just before 4:00 p.m. Authorities evacuated the terminal and called for the Bay County sheriff’s office Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team. The bomb squad used one of its remote control robots and determined the briefcase was not a risk. The airport executive director reported that “they have since had the chance to review the situation, inspect the package, and determine that it is not a hazardous situation for us. We just re-opened the terminal building.” Authorities evacuated a total of some 60 people, both employees and passengers. Outgoing flights were delayed, but the airport did reopen a little after 6:00 p.m. Tuesday evening.

Source: <http://www.wjhg.com/news/headlines/37200439.html>

15. *January 6, Aviation Week* – (National) **TSA opens large aircraft security meetings.** The Transportation Security Administration held the first of five public meetings to solicit comments on its proposed Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP) at Westchester County Airport in White Plains, New York. The LASP would affect all aircraft with a gross takeoff weight of 12,500 pounds or more, their crews and passengers, and any airport used by these aircraft. The New York Times estimated that about 100 pilots were expected to attend, but it appeared that three to four times that number crowded into the auditorium of the former Air National Guard headquarters building near the airport entrance. All those who spoke raised opposition to some or most of the provisions in the proposal. Among the most contentious items were those requiring all passengers be checked against federal “watch” lists, that many items, including tools and sporting equipment, would be prohibited from carriage, that all operators would have to undergo biennial security audits by third parties, and that aircraft over 100,000 pounds would be subject to on-demand carriage of an armed federal air marshal. Most speakers also objected to the 12,500 pound baseline, with many suggesting the base should be 100,000 pounds.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=busav&id=news/LARGE010609.xml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *January 7, Dominican Today* – (International) **White powder puts U.S. embassy in Dominican capital on alert.** U.S. embassy personnel in the Dominican Republic capital were under alert for one hour Tuesday, after a white powder was detected in a package deposited in its post office, newspaper El Caribe reports. The dust, sent immediately to Washington for analysis, was detected in a routine check of letters and packages in the diplomatic mission's post office in Santo Domingo. A U.S. embassy spokesman said there was no evacuation.
Source: <http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2009/1/7/30653/White-powder-puts-US-embassy-in-Dominican-capital-on-alert>
17. *January 7, Beacon News* – (Illinois) **Letter to OSHA marked 'anthrax' not harmful.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has determined that a suspicious letter sent to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) building in North Aurora, Illinois, on Monday afternoon contained no harmful chemicals. The envelope was found in the building at about 2 p.m. Police and fire agencies were called, along with the Kane County Bomb Squad, which isolated the envelope. According to an FBI spokesman, it was addressed to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the OSHA office's address and had "anthrax" written on the outside of the envelope. The envelope contained no powders, he said.
Source: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/1365348,2_1_AU07_ANTHRAX_S1.article
18. *January 6, WOAI 1200 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Judson ISD facility evacuated after suspicious powder found.** A school education center on the Northeast Side is returning to normal after an evacuation. A Judson ISD employee opened a letter containing white powder which caused the scare on Tuesday morning. The envelope was found at the Judson Independent School District's Education Resource Center (ERC). It was opened by an employee in the mailroom. The letter was reported addressed to someone who had never worked at the ERC. There was no note. School officials evacuated the center while emergency crews checked out the suspicious envelope. After about an hour, haz-mat crews secured the area and then gave the "all clear" for the building's approximately 100 occupants to return.
Source: <http://www.woai.com/mostpopular/story/Judson-ISD-Facility-Evacuated-after-Suspicious/8rRzNr3jx0K1CXL4I-7Nhw.csp>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *January 7, Associated Press* – (International) **Expert: Virus in Filipino pigs may pose human risk.** Animal and health experts said Wednesday they were conducting an investigation in the Philippines to determine whether the Ebola Reston virus recently discovered in pigs poses a threat to human health. About a dozen experts from the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health were invited to Manila to help the government investigate the virus, first identified in October in the northern Philippines. The discovery not only marked the first

time the virus has been found outside of monkeys, but also the first time it has been found in swine, a food-producing animal. Those factors make the mission “particularly important,” said a joint statement by the investigating organizations. The 10-day research mission, which started Tuesday, will focus on the source of the virus, how it is transmitted, its virulence, its natural habitat, and the best way to identify it, the experts said.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/01/07/asia/AS-Philippines-Sick-Pigs.php>

20. *January 6, NewsDay* – (National) **FDA: Food makers to acknowledge bug-based additives.** After a decade of pressure from a consumer advocacy group, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will require the food industry to disclose a little known fact: The food dye that goes by the name of carmine — and several other aliases — is made from the crushed bodies of the cochineal insect. Starting in two years, food manufacturers will have to disclose cochineal-based food additives on their labels. The FDA created the new rule because people who have consumed products that range from yogurt to fruit drinks to candy have developed severe allergic reactions, some of which have been potentially fatal. The dye also is listed on food labels as E-120, or sometimes simply as cochineal — but not many people know that is the name of an insect. Currently, the executive director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest said that companies are allowed to use the terms “artificial colors” or “color added” when referring to the bug-based dyes. The colors are considered natural, he added, because they are derived from an insect source.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-libugs0712333417jan07,0,2963970.story>

21. *January 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA and Perdue Farms Inc. sign water protection initiative.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Perdue have signed an agreement to implement the Perdue clean waters environmental initiative, an effort to provide training, assessments, and assistance in reducing the environmental impacts of poultry farms. Under the agreement announced Tuesday, Perdue will use results of the initial pilot effort to launch a four-year, environmental management program. While new federal regulations only apply to concentrated animal feeding operations that discharge, this program will extend to all Perdue producers in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions. As part of the initiative, Perdue poultry processing facilities will each implement an environmental management system — a set of processes and practices designed to reduce environmental impacts and increase operating efficiency.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/dd3402125070de8f85257536006daf50?OpenDocument>

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Water Sector

22. *January 7, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Pump problem dumps sewage into Broad River in SC.** Columbia city officials say a pump problem allowed raw sewage to

run into the Broad River for nearly eight hours. The state newspaper reported Wednesday that Monday's spill was the second time in a month that the pumps have failed at the location just north of Columbia. The utilities director said city employees started installing a temporary pump Tuesday. The same pumps were overwhelmed during heavy rain on December 11. More than three inches of rain fell December 10 and December 11. Some of the stormwater flows into sewage pipes, and the volume was more than the pumps could push through the underground sewage pipes on the river bank. He said officials have not determined how much sewage spilled this week. He says nearly 350,000 gallons leaked last month.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/statewire/story/642292.html>

23. *January 6, New York Times* – (National) **Hundreds of coal ash dumps lack regulation.**

The coal ash pond that ruptured and sent a billion gallons of toxic sludge across 300 acres of East Tennessee last month was only one of more than 1,300 similar dumps across the United States — most of them unregulated and unmonitored — that contain billions more gallons of fly ash and other byproducts of burning coal. Like the one in Tennessee, most of these dumps, which reach up to 1,500 acres, contain heavy metals like arsenic, lead, mercury, and selenium, which are considered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be a threat to water supplies and human health. Yet they are not subject to any federal regulation, which experts say could have prevented the spill, and there is little monitoring of their effects on the surrounding environment. As the EPA has studied whether to regulate coal ash waste, the cases of drinking wells and surface water contaminated by leaching from the dumps or the use of the ash has swelled. In 2007, an EPA report identified 63 sites in 26 states where the water was contaminated by heavy metals from such dumps, including three other Tennessee Valley Authority dumps. Environmental advocacy groups have submitted at least 17 additional cases that they say should be added to that list.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/07/us/07sludge.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss

24. *January 6, Environment News Service* – (Hawaii) **Honolulu must spend over \$1 billion on wastewater treatment.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today issued final decisions to not renew the City and County of Honolulu's variances exempting the Sand Island and Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment plants from full secondary treatment requirements. The decision forces the city to upgrade both plants to bring them into compliance with federal laws. City officials have said these upgrades could cost more than \$1.2 billion. The federal agency has concluded that the discharges from the two plants do not meet the Clean Water Act's conditions for renewed variances from requirements which apply to most of the nation's municipal sewage treatment plants.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2009/2009-01-06-092.asp>

25. *January 6, Water Technology Online* – (California) **SF moves forward on big water system project.** The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has awarded a construction management (CM) services contract for its Bay Division Regional Project to Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. The SFPUC supplies drinking water to 2.4 million

customers in the four Bay Area counties of Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco. The SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program project includes construction of approximately 16 miles of 60-inch and 72-inch pipeline, three separate crossover structures along existing Bay Division Pipelines 3 and 4, and upgrades to the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71196

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *January 7, Business Gazette* – (Maryland) **Mercury spill forces HHS offices to evacuate.** About 50 employees with the county Department of Health and Human Services returned to work Tuesday morning after their Silver Spring, Maryland offices were evacuated Monday due to a mercury spill that sent one employee to a local hospital for treatment. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service personnel were called to the building after a wall-mounted blood-pressure machine in a storage room fell and broke, emitting about a pound of mercury, said a Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services spokesman. Fire and rescue's hazmat team also responded and tested employees for mercury levels that could lead to health problems. A female employee who had been near the medical instrument when it broke had higher than normal levels of mercury in her clothing, said a spokeswoman for HHS. All employees on the 10th floor of the building work for HHS and were evacuated and assigned to alternate work sites as a clean-up of the site was performed Monday night.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/01072009/silvnew194929_32475.shtml

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *January 5, Government Security News* – (Washington) **U.S. Navy plans to use dolphins and sea lions to detect underwater terrorists.** The U.S. Navy is considering a program that would deploy Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and California sea lions to detect terrorists or other intruders swimming on the surface or underwater toward ships, submarines, and other critical assets located at sensitive naval bases. The dolphins and sea lions would be used, in conjunction with human security patrol teams, to detect, identify, and possibly "tag" the intruding swimmers, so they could be found and apprehended quickly by human personnel operating in small boats. For more than two decades, the Navy has been contemplating such a plan, to use dolphins and sea lions at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, a naval base in the Puget Sound, 20 miles west of Seattle, Washington, in a controversial effort now called the Swimmer Interdiction Security System, or SISS. A draft environmental impact statement describing a wide range of environmental aspects of the proposed SISS "Marine Mammal Program" was unveiled December 17, 2008, and public hearings will be held in two communities near the naval base on February 11 and 12.

Source: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/market-segments/maritime-port-security/1301.html>

Emergency Services Sector

28. *January 7, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Probe of police EMT training begins.** The Hamilton Police Department is investigating reports that a handful of its officers skipped classes or falsified documents as they renewed their certification as emergency medical technicians. The allegations were uncovered in the recent probe of EMT-training violations in the police department. An EMS report released in December found that 24 Hamilton and Danvers officers claimed to have taken training courses that were never held and obtained EMT certifications despite the lack of training. Danvers does not offer its own ambulance service, but about a dozen officers are certified EMTs. Certain Danvers officers were recertified on the basis of allegedly having signed attendance sheets for a course that was never held. Their EMT licenses were suspended along with others in the Hamilton department.

Source:

http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_006235418.html?keyword=secondarystory

29. *January 7, Sealy News* – (Texas) **County to replace emergency radios.** First responders in Austin County will be armed with state-of-the-art equipment this year, thanks to a \$1.04 million grant aimed at bettering their communication radios. The funds, by way of a state grant and local matching funds, will help make possible changes in a statewide plan that seeks to better regional and statewide radio communications. As part of Homeland Security improvements post the September 11th attacks, public safety — including law enforcement and emergency management services — are upgrading their radios. The county stands to gain 88 portable and 61 mobile devices. Of that, 30 portable and 11 mobile devices will go to the Austin County EMS with the rest going to the sheriff's office. Funds will also go to build and improve needed infrastructure to support the new system.

Source: <http://www.sealynews.com/articles/2009/01/06/news/news01.txt>

Information Technology

30. *January 7, IT PRO* – (International) **Teenage Twitter systems hacker admits guilt.** An 18-year old hacker, who managed to breach Twitter's administration systems and take over multiple high-profile accounts, has admitted his guilt. The teenager, who goes by the handle GMZ, told the Wired Threat Level blog that he broke into Twitter's administrative control panel by using an automated password-guesser program on the account of a popular user. It turned out that this user was a Twitter support staff member called "Crystal," who had chosen the easy-to-guess password "happiness." He said that breaking into the account was easy as Twitter allowed an unlimited number of rapid log-in guesses. Using a self-created tool, he used a dictionary program which automatically tried English words and managed to gain access into Crystal's account. He was then able

to access any other Twitter account by resetting an account holder's password. He did not use the hacked accounts personally, instead offering hackers in his forum access to any Twitter account by request. Twitter confirmed to Wired that the intruder had used a dictionary attack to gain access to the administrative account, although it refused to confirm the other details. A co-founder did say in a follow-up email that Twitter was doing a "full security review on all access points to Twitter. More immediately, we're strengthening the security surrounding sign-in. We're also restricting access to the support tools for added security."

Source: <http://www.itpro.co.uk/609451/teenage-twitter-systems-hacker-admits-guilt>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *January 7, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (International) **AT&T plans for trans-oceanic cable at Montana de Oro.** AT&T is making plans for a fifth trans-oceanic cable at Montana de Oro, California. The goal of the project is to improve communications between the West Coast of the United States, Hawaii, and Asia. The project manager for the AT&T Asia-America Gateway Fiber Optic Cable Project explained, "Put it down under the sea floor wherever they can. If they hit bedrock, sometimes it'll lay above, but there's not that much area that's like that. And then it gets out past 1,000 fathoms and just lays across the ocean out to Hawaii." Earlier Tuesday, the California State Lands Commission held two public workshops to talk about the project's environmental impact. If approved, construction would begin in the next six months and last for about six weeks.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=9629028>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *January 6, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Letter threatens Capitol Hill bar patrons.** An alarming letter was sent to nearly a dozen Seattle bars threatening to kill people with ricin. Seattle Police says it is taking the threat seriously and is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate. Officers have collected all 11 letters sent to the bars. "It had a typed label on the front of it, it was taped to the front, no return address on it or anything," said a bartender. He got the letter Tuesday, in which the author writes: "I have in my possession approximately 67 grams of ricin." The letter goes on to say people will die in "11 locations in the Capitol Hill vicinity. Each location will have at least five targets." The content of the letter, which appears to target gay-

friendly bars, is spreading quickly on Capitol Hill. KING 5 News has learned that the joint terrorism task force has not been called in at this point to investigate the ricin threats because at this point authorities consider this simply a threat and there is no indication actual ricin is involved.

Source:

http://www.nwcn.com/statenews/washington/stories/NW_010609WAB_ricin_letter_KC_470ebef9.html

33. *January 6, NBC 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Suspicious package found at middle school.**

According to the Perry County Sheriff's Office, officials received a phone call at about 1 p.m. from the Northern Local Middle School regarding a suspicious package in a restroom. Deputies arrived at the scene, along with emergency crews from the Somerset and Thornville fire and EMS departments. School officials told investigators that all students were removed from the building, along with faculty. Officials found the package and called the Franklin County Sheriff's Office bomb squad. The bomb squad disabled the package and said the investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Investigators said the incident was not called in as a bomb threat and no one was injured.

Source:

http://www.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/local/article/suspicious_package_found_at_middle_school/11507/

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

34. *January 7, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Pfleuger pleads not guilty in Kauai dam collapse that killed 7.** A retired auto dealer pleaded not guilty Tuesday to criminal charges stemming from the deadly collapse of the Kaloko dam, and his lawyer alleged that the state “manipulated” evidence to obtain the indictment. The man was indicted in November on charges of manslaughter and reckless endangering after a dam failed on March 14, 2006, causing a flood that wiped out several homes downstream and left seven dead. The indictment capped a two-year criminal investigation into reports that he filled in the Kaloko dam's spillway. The absence of a spillway, which acts as an overflow valve, may have contributed to the dam breaking during a month of heavy rain.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20090107/NEWS20/901070379/1001/NEWS>

35. *January 6, KERO 23 Bakersfield* – (California) **Suspicious device found near Lake Isabella Auxiliary Dam.** The Kern County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad and Kern County Fire Department were at Eva Avenue and Barlow Drive in Lake Isabella, to

respond to reports of a possible bomb. A fisherman discovered a suspicious device and called in to authorities. The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Bomb Squad found a suspicious metal pipe, attached to a cable and battery, sticking out of the water in a canal. Upon examination, the KCSO Bomb Squad determined that it was a homemade flashlight. The KCSO Bomb Squad detonated the device as a precaution. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www.turnto23.com/news/18422801/detail.html>

36. *January 6, Renewable Energy World* – (Minnesota; National) **First commercial hydrokinetic power turbine installed; DOE unveils hydropower database.** Hydro Green Energy LLC has completed the installation of one of two turbines at the United States' first-ever commercial hydrokinetic power project. Last month, the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the licensing and installation of the power station in Hastings, Minnesota. The city is installing a two-turbine Hydro+ project downstream from its 4.4-megawatt run-of-river hydropower plant on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lock & Dam No. 2. Once the electrical systems are tested, the hydrokinetic turbine will send electricity to the Minnesota electric power grid. The second underwater turbine will be installed in the spring of 2009. Once the project is operational, extensive water quality, fish survival, mussel, and avian impact studies will be performed by Hydro Green Energy. In a related story, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program has developed and released a database that provides up-to-date information on marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy in the United States and around the world. The database includes wave, current, and ocean thermal energy conversion technologies. The database allows the user to search among both technology types and specific projects, based on a number of criteria including geographical location, resource type, and technology stage or project status. Users can access details on a device or project's size, dimensions, and mooring methods, as well as project details. The database also includes an interactive GPS mapping feature.

Source: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=54426&src=rss>

See also: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/hydrokinetic/default.aspx>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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